The Time Piece.

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EXTRACT.

Mr. Curran in defence of the Liberty of the Press.

Gentlemen, Mr. Attorney General has been pleased to open another battery upon this publication, which I do trust I shall silence, unless I flatter myself too much in supposing that hitherto my resistance has not been utterly unsuccessful. He abuses it for the foul and insolent familiarity of its address. I do clearly understand his idea; he considers the freedom of the press to be the license of offering that paltry adulation which no man ought to stoop to utter or to hear; he supposes the freedom of the press ought to be like the freedom of a king's jester, who, instead of revoking the faults of which his majesty ought to be ashamed, is base and cunning enough, under the mask of servile and adulatory censure, to stroke down and pamper those vices of which he is fool ish enough, to be v i He would not have the press presume to tell the viceroy that the prerogative of mercy is a trust for the benefit of the subject, and not a gaudy feather stuck into the diadem to shake in the wind, and by its idle waving amuse the vanity of the wearer. He would not have it say to him that the discretion of the crown as to mercy is like the discretion of a court of justice as to law; and that in the one case, as well as the other, wherever the propriety of the exercise of it appears, it is equally a matter of right. He would have the press all fierceness to the people, and all sycophancy to power; he would have it consider the mad and phrenetic depopulations of authority, like the awful and inscrutable dispensations of providence, and fly to the unfeeling and despotic spoiler in the blasphemed and insulted language of religious resignation—the Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord!!! But let me condense the generality of the learned gentleman's invective into questions that you can conceive. Does he mean that the air of this publication is rustic and unworthy? Does he mean that when Marcus presumed to ascend the steps of the Castle, and to address the viceroy, he did not turn out his toes as he ought to have done? A jury of dancing masters might decide that question, and gentlemen of that profession might be witnesses; or does the learned gentlemen mean that the language is coarse and vulgar? If this be his complaint, my client has but a poor advocate. I do not pretend to be a mighty grammarian, or a formidable critic; but I would beg leave to suggest to you in serious humility by the ardor of men who feel the prompting sting of real or supposed captivity; who write from the enthusiasm of virtue, or the ambition of praise, and over whom, if you exercise the rigor of a grammatical censorship, you will inspire them with as mean an opinion of your intearity as your wisdom, and inevitably drive them from their post—and if you do so, rely upon it, you will reduce the spirit of public tion, and with it the press of this country to what it for a long interval ha been, the register of births, and fairs, and funerals, and the general abuse of the people and their friends.

But, gentlemen, in order to bring this charge of insolence and vulgarity to the test, let me ask you whether you know of any language which could have adequately described the idea of mercy denied where it ought to hav been granted, or of any phrase vigorous enough to convey the indignation which an honest man would have felt upon such a subject? Let me beg of you for a moment to suppose that any one of you had been the writer of this very severe expostulation with the Viceroy, and that you had been the witness of the whole progress of this re e to be forgotten catastrophe. Let me suppose that you had known the charge upon which Mr. Orr was apprehended, the charge of abjuring that bigotry which had torn and disgraced his country, of pledging himself to restore the people of his country to their place in the constitution and of binding himself never to be the betrayer of his fellow-labourers in that you had seen him upon that charge removed from his industry, and confined in a gaol; that through the slow and lingering progress of 12 tedious months you had seen him confined in a dungeon, shut out from the common use of air and of his own limbs; that day after day you had marked the unhappy captive cheered by no sound but the cries of his family, or the clinking of chains; that you had seen him at last brought to his trial; that you had seen the vile and perjured informer deposing against his life; that you had seen the drunken, and worn out, and terrified Jury give in a verdict of death; that you had seen the same jury, when their returning sobriety had brought back their conscience, prostrate themselves before the humanity of the Bench, and pray that the mercy of the crown might save their characters from the reproach of an involuntary crime, their consciences from the torture of eternal self-condemnation, and their souls from the indelible stain of innocent blood. Let me suppose that you had seen the respite given, and that contrite and honest recommendation transferred to that seat, where mercy was presumed to dwell; that new, and before unheard of crimes, are discovered against the informer, that the royal mercy seems to relent, and that a new respite is sent to the prisoner, that time is taken, as the learned counsel for the crown has expressed it, to see whether mercy could be extended or not! that after that period of lingering deliberation passed, a third reprieve is transmitted; that the unhappy captive himself feels the cheering hope of being restored to a family that he had adored, to a character that he had never stained, and to a country that he had ever loved; that you had seen his wife and children upon their knees, giving those tears to gratitude, which their locked and frozen hearts could not give to anguish and despair, and imploring the blessings of eternal providence upon his head, who had graciously spared the father, and restored him to his children. "Alas! nor wife, nor children more shall he behold, nor friends, nor sacred home." Or seraph mercy unbars his dungeon, and leads him forth to light and life, but the minister of death hurries him to the scene of suffering and of shame; where, unmoved by the hostile array of artillery and armed men collected together, either to secure, or insult, or to disturb him, he dies with a solemn declaration of his innocence, and utters, his last breath in a prayer for the liberty of his country. Let me now ask you, if any of you had addressed the public ear upon so foul and monstrous a subject, in what language would you have conveyed the feelings of horror and indignation? Would you have stooped to the meanness of qualified complaint;—would you have been mean enough; but I entreat your forgiveness—I do not think meanly of you; had thought so meanly of you, I could not suffer my mind to commune with you as it has done; had I thought you that base and vile instrument, attuned by hope and by fear, into discord and falsehood, from whose vulgar string no person could vibrate, no voice of integrity or honor could speak, let me honestly tell you, I should have scorned to fling my hand across it; I should have left it to a fitter mine; if I do not therefore grossly err in my opinion of you; I could use no language upon such a subject as this, that must not lag behind the rapidity of your feelings, and that would not disgrace those feelings, if it attempted to describe them.

Gentlemen I am not unconscious that the learned Counsel for the Crown seemed to address you with a confidence of a very different kind; he seemed to expect a kind and respectful sympathy from you with the feelings of the Castle, and the griefs of chided authority. Perhaps gentlemen he may know you better than I do; if he does he has spoken to you as he ought; he has been right in telling you, that if the reprobation of this writer is weak, it is because his genius could not make it stronger; he has been right in telling you that his language has not been braided and festooned as elegantly as it might; that he has not pinched the miserable plain of his Phraseology, nor placed his patches and feathers with that correctness of millinery which become so exalted a person. If you agree with him gentlemen of the jury, if you think that the man who at the hazard of his own life, to rescue from the deep the drowned honor of his country, must not presume upon the guilty familiarity of plucking it up by the locks, I have no more to say; do a courteous thing. Upright and honest jurors, find a civil and obliging verdict against the Printer! And when you have done so, march through the ranks of your fellow citizens to your own homes, and bear their looks as you pass along; retire to the bosom of your families and your children, and when you are presiding over the morality of the parental board tell those infants who are to be the future men of Ireland, the history of this day. Form their young minds by your precepts and confirm those precepts by your own example; teach them how discreetly allegiance may be perjured on the table, or loyalty be for-sworn in the jury box; and when you have done so, tell them the story of Orr; tell them of his captivity, of his children, of his crime, of his hopes, of his disappointments, of his courage and of his death; and when you find your little hearers hanging from your lips, when you see their eyes overflow with sympathy and tears and their young hearts bursting with the pangs of anticipated orphanage, tell them that you had the boldness and the justice to stigmatize the monster—who had dared to publish the transfact on!

ANCIENT REPUBLICS OF EUROPE.

HOLLAND.

An hereditary Stadtholder, and about four hundred noble and rich families, divided amongst them the executive, legislative and judiciary power. The people had not the least share in the appointment of members to the States-General and to the Provincial Assemblies, nor had they the right of chooling their own municipal officers.—But the French expelled the Stadtholder, overthrew the Thrones of the privileged families, abolished the feudal prerogatives, and restored the rights of freemen nearly two millions of inhabitants, who were to merly mere subjects.

GENOA.

Here four hundred and twenty eight noble families exercised their arbitrary sway over 563,000 subjects.—The French prevailed upon the former to renounce their privileges, procured freedom to the latter, and emancipated at the same time, above 100,000 inhabitants of the Imperial Fiefs kept in bondage by 34 other families of usurpers.

VENICE.

Five hundred and thirty Patrician or noble families possessed all the sovereign authority, and no one, not of the Patrician cast, was eligible to any office of trust or profit: two millions and a half of people were here mere beasts of burden.—France emancipated only one million and three hundred thousand of the latter: being reduced by the prospect of an endless war on the continent, to the alternative of choosing between the liberty of the remaining twelve hundred thousand Venetians, or of fifteen hundred thousand Germans on the left bank of the Rhine, she declared in favour of the latter, who, since 1794 when their country was conquered had constantly proved themselves worthy the confidence of their deliverers. If the privileges of those Venetians who were abandoned to the emperor, were not materially increased; they were at least not diminished: formal stipulations secured to them all the advantages they formerly enjoyed under the aristocracy, and they were besides declared capable of holding offices of trust and profit under the Austrian government. The conduct of the French incurred the blame of both the friends and the enemies of liberty in all countries:—the former condemned them for having emancipated only one half of the Venetian people, the latter apparently upon the same ground, but in reality for having emancipated *one half*. It certainly does not belong to those, who have not only done nothing towards the emancipation of enslaved fellowmen, but have opposed it as much as lay in their feeble power, to upbraid others who freed whole nations. Imperious circumstances procured a momentary possession of one half of Venice to the emperor, but the emancipation of that half is only delayed, not precluded. The same hand that signed the prolongation of the bondage of twelve hundred thousand Venetians, has, at the same time, secured the liberty of seven millions of other bondmen who inhabited Austrian Lombardy, the Ecclesiastical State, Modena, Genoa and the banks of the Rhine.

SWITZERLAND.

Six Cantons, the three leauges of the Grisons and the Upper Valais, had a democratic form of government, and this they have yet. But the governments of seven other Cantons, including the subject provinces, and some of their allies, were rank aristocracies: About 930 privileged citizens, kept above a million of people in bondage far more cruel, than even that of despotic monarchies, such as Prussia and Austria. The majority of the Swiss aristocracies yielded to the remonstrances of France and voluntarily emancipated their subjects. But it could not be expected that the Patricians of Bern, the most powerful, the most imperious and most arbitrary aristocracy of all Switzerland, should resign their usurped power without a struggle at least to prolong it. They resisted, and were laid in the dust. All Switzerland is now free, more than one half of that country was formerly in bondage.

If we add to the above now free and independent republics, Belgium, Savoy, Nice and other countries incorporated with France, it will appear, that by annihilating the usurped power of about three thousand aristocratic and Monarchical families, the French republic has restored the rights of freemen to more than *thirteen millions* of subjects and bondmen. The emancipation of thirteen million of men, this is the great crime the French were guilty of, in overthrowing the pretended ancient *republics*.

NORFOLK, July 7.

FOURTH OF JULY.

Military proceedings of the day.

THE Military arrangements being formed by Major Marsh, as officer of the day. The following parade took place: a detachment was directed from captain Reynold's Grenadiers, under the command of Lieutenant Duran, to receive the standard of the 54th Regiments, from the hands of Miss Simons, who on presenting it, delivered the following address:

SIR,

Having the honor of delivering to your hands this standard to-day. I am encouraged to hope and believe, that it will always be supported and protected in the sacred cause of freedom, by the patriotism and gallantry of the officer to whole charge it is assigned; and although the needle work will, in time, lose its brilliancy and fade, I cannot harbor the most distant thought, that this banner of 54th regiment of the Norfolk borough militia, will ever be tarnished in its military glory, or unfurl'd in any cause save *that* of the constituted liberties of the free citizens of the United States of America.

PHILADELPHIA, July 17.

COMMUNICATION.

The Legislature of the United States of America, closed yesterday a long and very important session. The wisdom of the authors of the Federal Constitution, in committing the power to declare war entirely to the legislative body, has been strikingly evinced in the course of their sittings. Congress have made numerous and great provisions for defence, but they could not be induced to adopt any resolution that should irrevocably pronounce the French Republic our enemies. Much less have they seemed disposed to declare war against the government and people of France. There appears yet to remain an unconquerable jealousy of all the powers, that have heretofore been combined against republicanism in Europe. This seems to have produced, in a commanding majority of Congress, an unalterable aversion to throw the United States into the arms of any of the confederated monarchs. If unequivocal information had been received from Europe, that the corrupt suggestions of X, Y and Z, the shocking menaces of treating us like Venice, the threats to burn our towns and ravage our sea-ports had really proceeded from the Executive government of France, and if Mr. Gerry had likewise been sent away, it is highly probable that our national legislature would have passed an unanimous declaration of war, solemnly appealing to an over-ruling Providence for the justness of a measure, to which they would have been irresistibly impelled.—Congress were led by many circumstances deliberately to consider the part they ought to act in such a crisis.—They might have declared war. This they have declined.—They might have remained entirely still. This too they have declined.—They might, under the influence of revenge and a desire of gain, have authorised general reprisals upon the trade and private shipping of France, as well as upon their armed ships, which are spoliating our trade. Such general reprisals they have also declined. They have made a new and curious modification of the business of captures at sea, by refraining from taking any vessels or property whatsoever, except those which are the instruments of injury to our mercantile citizens: That is to say, they have authorised, as a defensive measure, the taking of those ships of France, which are constantly taking the ships and cargoes of the American merchants. But they have left the French merchant ships untouched. It is plain, that many, who conceive that France has treated us with indignities, she would not have borne from us, are anxious to avoid any war that must connect us with the king and ministry of England. It is remembered, that it was America, that first promulgated, as a country, in her declaration of independence, that all men are born equal.—The sacred doctrine was only confirmed by France. Those who detest, and would destroy this adopted principle of France, it is plain, would, for the same cause, destroy the United States. The American legislature is too sagacious not to perceive this. It is therefore cautious of Britain.—

But things have been carried to a most unhappy length between the two republics. It is the interest and duty of the friends of representative government to terminate the fatal quarrel. We see that the Legislature of the United States have made a solemn pause before they would declare war, or even authorite spoliating reprisals upon the merchants of France. Let us hope that the French republic has entered upon a fair and reasonable negociation with Mr. Gerry; and that even after they shall hear of the measures produced here by the disgust and resentment at the unexplained conduct of Messrs. X, Y and Z, they also will immediately forbear from further captures of our merchantmen, and from a declaration of war.

The French have been extremely uneasy at the influence of English commerce and power through out the world. If they execute their present plans in regard to Great Britain, they will conquer all the British political detachments, which they believe to be planted in various foreign countries.

Immense changes must take place before long in Great Britain and Ireland. The people of those great islands, with equal liberty full in view will not remain satisfied to be governed by less than twenty-thousand persons, who either possess hereditarily, or by decayed burroughs the whole power over 15 millions of persons! Their land and sea forces are ten times as numerous! To Americans, this is known to be but the name of freedom. The fate of such a system, in this enlightened age, is easy to foresee. Were the United States and England allied in a warlike co-operation of the American troops, with the British navy, army, and militia in Nova-Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Canadas would communicate the fire of liberty to the whole fabric of Britain. The first and last are already in a situation to excite attention and apprehension, and the patriotic and republican conduct of the French army in 1789 and 1790 is not unknown. The British people love liberty.—The Irish pant for it. The army is drawn from the mass of the people.

The American and French commerce must hereafter be very great. Our revolutions have removed many of rhe obstructions. Reflection and exertion will remove more, and open the channels of trade. We require wines, brandies, taffia or rum, dried fruits, sugar, coffee, cotton, cocoa, piemento, cabinet woods, salt, silks, cambrics, paper, hoziery, looking glasses, bottles, woolen and cotten goods, and various other articles, which they make: and they require flour, fish, beef, pork, Indian corn, carpenter's woods, tobacco, and many other articles, which we produce. They will perform a revolution in manufactures by introducing all the manufacturing machinery into France, and by working up their own cotton and silk, and the silk and wool of Italy and Spain.—And they will, by those means, rival the English manufactures in all parts of the world. The mistaken policy of their kings, princes, and nobles. encouraged the manufacture of goods calculated to gratify the vanity of the privileged and hereditary orders. The more wise policy of their republican government will encourage the manufacture of goods requisite for the defence, and for the comfort and necessities of all mankind. The consumers will be multiplied by this change in the nature of the goods.

A quarrel between France and America would be attended with a vast expence to both. The American war gave a fatal blow to the finances of Great Britain. Such were her expenditures in her contest with this infant country, that she was unable to struggle four years against France, (from 1793 to 1797.) before the bank of England and the bank of Ireland astonished the world by stopping payment. The war of Britain was against half the present people of the United States. An invasive war, upon a proportionate scale, by Great Britain, at this time, and provided as we now are, would make her completely bankrupt before the end of the next year. It is from such great facts, that France can most accurately reason in case of a war with this country, united as it would be against any invading army.

Putting all such speculations aside, the happiness of mankind imperiously demands, that the great and interesting family of free nations should not quarrel, while the despotic and monarchical states are yet in arms.

This is the grand consideration of the present day, to which every thing else ought to give way. It is plain that many in the supreme legislative body of the United States have discountenanced war and reprisals against France for that powerful reason. Let us hope then, let us not doubt, that France will be equally regardful of the happiness of the two nations, and of all mankind, whose condition would be universally injured by a war between the two republics. If the Executive has desired war, the legislature, which is the proper body to consider and decide upon war, have rendered it an abortive wish. If small minorities of the two houses of Congress have also desired war, the wishes of those minorities have been restrained by the constitutional influence and power of commanding majorities in each. If the passions, or precipitancy of any of the temporary servants of a republican nation occasionally lead those public servants too far, it ought not to bring on the extreme and permanent evils of a war, unfavourable to the liberties of the whole human race.

Persons pretending to the utmost liberality, professing the most unbounded toleration, and perpetually blubbering out praises on liberty, justice, and the riches of private opinion, are yet seen hourly supporting persecution for opinion's sake, and bellowing out anathemas against this man for his creed in politics and that in religion, and in the same moment applauding measures, compared with which the open wickedness of the inquisition bears some marks of honesty, because direct and open.

Dr. Franklin, in his celebrated examination, briefly told the English parliament that men's opinions are not to be conquered!

THE TIME PIECE.

FRIDAY, JULY 20.

It is devoutly to be wished that the benevolent sentiments inculcated last Sunday, from the pulpit, by the venerable Doctor Rogers, was imitated by the clergy throughout the union. Gentlemen who differ in political sentiments concerning the policy of going to war with the Terrible Republic; however they may reprobate her aggressions, excesses, and depradations upon our commerce, should avoid all terms of asperity against those citizens who differ as to the measures which may be adopted for maintaining the peace, independency of America and the preservation of our most excellent form of government, especially as a union of thought, sentiment, resources and energy to defend the country, ought to be the wish and primary object of every good citizen upon this momentous and eventful crisis.

Mens' minds differ like their forms and complexions, all are not of the same magnitude. The science of the social order of man is in its embrio. The understandings of by far the greatest proportion of men, are so much occupied in their private and domestic concerns, that they have not leisure, had they the capacity to judge of the true policy or expediency of measures, best calculated to promote the true interest of their country. Led captive by the eloquence of their passions, and a vivid sense of the injuries and insults we have received from the depredations on our commerce, and the treatment of our commissioners at Paris, are too apt to loose sight ofthe impolicy of being engaged in a war with a nation, who misterious providence seems to have employed to accomplish the fulfilment of those ancient prophecies which is to proceed the millineum. The French have destroyed the political power of the beast or scarlet whore, and made desolate that whore, who for many ages committed fornication with the kings of the earth, and has made herself drunk with the blood of the protestants. They have slew the witnesses, they think to change times and seasons; they spoke terrible things, and bear evident marks of the power of the little horn which was to fulfil the accomplishment of those events which no earthly power can impede or human policy revoke. Believe me, my countrymen, in a crisis so awful, the best policy we can pursue is to think well of those who differ from us in sentiments—"*Contemplate the signs of the times;*" eye the evident finger of the unerring ruler of nations; cultivate the arts of peace and unanimity among our fellow citizens, arm our militia, instruct yourselves in all the arts of a defensive war—make the true alliance and pursue the means which that wisdom, which is superior to the political dogmas of statesmen and princes, has pointed out that you may not be involved in the destiny of Britain, and the punishment which awaits her for the multitude of her crimes. Africa, Ireland and her Islands have long groaned under her oppressions, and co-temporary historians who have had the misfortune to be witness to the scenes of her desolation and carnage in Asia and America, will have difficulty to find expressions sufficiently energetic to paint all their horrors. Attend in the guidance of your affairs to those solid maxims of established wisdom; the severe truths of philosophy and those great lessons of history without which you cannot prevent will be able to extricate yourselves from the incalculable evils of a fruitless war.

Every true American who reads the account of the capture and treatment of captain Ebinezer Smith, will lament his misfortunes, and will be happy to learn by subsequent accounts, and for the honour of humanity that the barbarous and horrid cruelties said to have been perpetrated by the captores, have been greatly exagerated.

He who insults the magistrate of a free people while they exercise the trust according to the letter and spirit of the contract entered into between the governors and the governed, are insulting themselves and the people.

Bolingbrooke remarks, that it is absurd to suppose that the people have a right to resistance, when Kings attempts to inslave the mand that they have none when their representatives attempt to inslave them and themselves.

Those who suppose the Republics which the armies of France have overthrown were free, would do well to inquire into the true state and condition of their people before these events happened; they will find the governors of those republics have departed from the original principles upon which they were founded, and had degenerated into vile aristocracies or oligarchies. We have resided some years in Holland, Flanders and visited Switzerland and speak from real and local knowledge of the tyranny of the rulers of those Republics, and assert that the oppressed people defrauded of their legal rights, invited the French power to their assistance, following the example of England, Switzerland, and America, at the periods of their successive revolutions. Read history, my countrymen, and do not suffer your benevolent minds to take a wrong bias or be led captive by false flatements intended to answer political views, partial aims, or party purposes.

We have it from an authentic source, that General Washington has accepted the appointment of Lieutenant General and Commander in chief, of the armies of the United States.

A great outcry is made againſt thoſe who dare to queſtion the propriety of the meaſures of the government. As long as thoſe meaſures are in coincidence with the views of the tory party all ought to be ſilence and acquieſcence; but no ſooner are they foiled in their favourite objects than clamour and abuſe are ſhowered down even upon the repreſentatives of the people.

The Editor of the Gazette of the United States is as remarkable for his devotion to the conſtitued authorities as he is for his chaſtity, and he never vilifies but when he is diſpleaſed. The laſt houſe of repreſentatives, although choſen by the people, and one of the legitimate departments of the government, did not pleaſe the tory party or this tory editor, and to manifeſt his reſpect for the conſtitution, the conſtituted authorities, decorum, and the will of the majority, he publiſhed the following paragraph.

"MELANCHOLY!

"VERY MELANCHOLY INDEED!

"Died laſt evening, of a two years conſumption, and under all the horrors of a guilty conſcience, the *Houſe of Repreſentatives* of the United States. The remains of this many headed monſter, like unto thoſe of the Levite's concubine, will be conveyed in covered waggons to their reſpective tribes, there to be expoſed as a warning to the people. To draw the character of the deceaſed would be an herculean taſk—Suffice it to ſay, that as a political body it exhibited one of the moſt extraordinpry compounds of Virtue and Vice; Wiſdom and Folly; Liberality and Meanneſs; Candor and Hypocriſy and; Learning and Ignorance; Induſtry and Indolence, that ever the world beheld. What a pity that the Depoſitory of our deareſt rights ſhould have been formed of materials ſo oppoſite to their nature! The image which Nebucadnezer ſaw in his dream, was a mere fool to it. The haſty manner in which the funeral has been conducted, affords great ſcope for conjecture. Some perſons juſtify the meaſure on account of the corrupt ſtate of many of the members—whilſt others ſay, that the fault was entirely with the owners of lodging houſes, who had the conſcience to demand one cent per day extra for *entertaining* dead men." *Aurora.*

If a paragraph like the foregoing ſhould appear againſt the preſent houſe of Repreſentatives, what would be ſaid? The tories would be the *firſt* to condemn it, although they were the firſt to applaud the other. Strange inconſiſtency!! Although the preſent Congreſs infracted the Conſtitution, by *abridging the freedom of ſpeech and of the preſs*, they deſerve well of their country in the eſtimation of the Tories, and receive encomiums for doing what they ought not to have done!! *Aurora.*

Congreſs ſhall make no law abridging the freedom of ſpeech or of the preſs. It is pretended that an unconſtitutional law has become neceſſary to keep *the people* in due ſubordination. If the adminiſtration emanated from itſef there would be ſome reaſon for abridging the rights of the people for its own ſecurity; but as the government is the will of the people, for their own happineſs and comfort, it is treaſon againſt their will to impoſe reſtrictions upon them which they did not authoriſe. If the Government conſiders itſelf as a diſtinct eſſence, and contemplates and provides only for its own benefit, the conſtitution is a nullity; for this is predicated upon the will of the people, and the government ariſes out of the conſtitution. If the people diſobey conſtitutional laws they expoſe themſelvs to a puniſhment to which they have aſſented; but a diſobedience of of an unconſtitutional law ought to ſubject the authors of it and not the people to puniſhment. If it is criminal in the people to diſobey laws conſtitutionally made, is it not equally criminal in their repreſentatives to diſobey the firſt and greateſt law, the conſtitution? There is not only a political turpitude in a diſobedience, there is alſo a moral iniquity; for thoſe who adminiſter the conſtitution are *ſworn* to ſupport it.

It is a duty which the people owe themſelves to examine the laws that are made, and compare them with the conſtitution. The ſedition bill ought particularly to engage their attention. Let this be compared with the great charter which they have laid down for the regulation of their government. If on enquiry they find that their conſtitution is violated, they ought to reflect upon the conſequences of ſuch a violation thus early. If a caſual circumſtance ſhall juſtify an infraction of it, where is their ſecurity? The Conſtitution was to be inviolable—nothing ſhort of the power who made it was to change it; if it can be made to ſuit the intereſt or the deſigns of any portion of the community, contrary to its true intent and meaning, it is completely annihilated, and all ſecurity under it is at an end.—we ſhould be as well without ſuch an inſtrument as with it.

The miſunderſtanding between the United States and the French Republic is made uſe of to juſtify the enaction of odious laws. But what has this miſunderſtanding to do with a ſedition or an alien bill? Will a ſedition bill repreſs French agreſſions or an alien bill make the directory liſten to our terms? Will either prevent the French Republic from the purſuit of her own plans? It is a mockery of common ſenſe to ſuppoſe it. Whence then ſuch odious and unconſtitutional laws? Are they deſigned to produce unanimity in favor of governmental objects? If ſo they are unfit means to the end for the American people may be *perſuaded*, but they will not be *dragooned* into certain tenets.

Of all modes of enforcing conviction of producing uniformity of opinion none is ſo abſurd as that of force. This is the ſtrangeſt logic that be uſed to an intelligent being.

If the American people were a ſet of aſſes kicking and cuffing might be neceſſary to make them do their duty, but is this ſort of treatment neceſſary to the moſt "enlightened nation upon earth?"

Let the French deport themſelves as they will towards us, it ought to make no change in our own political mode of thinking or in our conſtitutional mode of acting.—What has their conduct to do with our conſtitution or our republican principles? Certainly nothing—will the capture of our veſſels or the non-reception of our envoys put us out of conceit of our conſtitution and of republican government? If ſo the firſt drunken prieſt that we ſee ought to make us renounce the goſpel—Let us not forget ourſelves in our attention to others, and while our eyes are fixed upon diſtant dangers let us not omit to turn them likewiſe to thoſe which may menace us nearer home—Many a man has broken his ſhins in endeavouring to avoid a ſtorm—Let not this be our misfortune.

General Maitland after being driven out of all of the few poſſeſſions which had been betrayed into Britiſh hands by Meſſieurs the Royaliſts—has juſt iſſued a proclamation for blocking up the other ports of the iſland. The Pope pretended to hold the keys of Heaven!

A Samaratin being aſked, why the Phariſees, pretending to be the miniſters of a God of peace, are ſo decidedly for war againſt France, replied; "they are afraid of being forced to follow the example of Chriſt and his apoſtles." Let them conſider, that by a like conduct, their colleagues in Europe have haſtened inſtead of preventing their fall.

Much has been ſaid of the whims and pride of royal majeſties. For rediculous whims and childiſh pride the Plebean Excellencies are now in a fair way of carrying the palm. The young king of Sweden by charging his new ambaſſador at Paris to declare that he moſt ſincerely wiſhed to maintain and preſerve his alliance with the French Republic, has but lately given a very inſtructive example of humility to governors, if to value the peace and welfare of one's country, above party feelings and perſonal gratifications, could properly be called humility.

The familiar intercourſe which has happily ſubſiſted between the inhabitants of Kentucky and the Indians ſince the treaty, muſt undoubtedly have given much pleaſure to the friends of humanity. We regret that our duty compels us to notice a recent tranſaction which may impreſs the Indians with unfavourable ideas of the treatment to which they ſubject themſelves, by mixing with the whites, and perhaps may lead to conſequences truly afflicting.

About two weeks ago, an Indian much intoxicated, entered a tavern in Chiſecotha, and as is uſual with his twany brethren when in that State, abruptly accoſted ſome white perſons who were drinking there. Upon the entrance of the Indian, or ſoon after, a glaſs fell from the table, and a diſpute aroſe reſpecting the perſon who occaſioned it.—Some blamed the Indian—others aſſerted that it was not him: till at length Thomas Thompſon, a young man, late of this town, in a violent paſſion, knocked the Indian down, declaring that man a ſcouudrel that dared to take an Indian's part.—The Indian roſe, drew his knife and we believe attempted a ſtroke but was prevented from doing any injury by the interference of ſome perſons who took him away. Soon after he was mounted with a view of returning to his camp. Thompſon came out of the houſe and with a handſpike ſtruck the Indian upon the head and acroſs the breaſt, which blows are ſaid to have occaſioned his death a few hours after.

We are ſorry to learn that the deceaſed Indian's companions appeared much irritated and went away apparently determined to ſatiate their vengence when a ſuitable opportunity ſhould offer. Neither can we help regretting that a young man, who generally ſtood high in the eſteem of thoſe with whom he was acquainted, ſhould ſo far reign himſelf to the government of his paſſions as to endanger his ſuffering an ignominious death, to indulge a ſpirit of retaliation—his father having been formerly killed by the Indians.

HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALMY.

Doctors' Comment—London.

April 17.

Yeſterday a Court of Admiralty was held in Doctor's Commons, for the trial of prize cauſes, when the caſe of an American ſhip, that had been captured in the river Humber, by the Black Joke cutter, came on to be heard. This ſhip was laden with cloth, beef, butter and limes.

The ſhip was claimed by an American gentleman of the name of Ramſden, as neutral property, and the cargo by a Mr. Woodhead, alſo an American.

It appeared, that on board this ſhip was an American paſs, and a paper containing an account of the veſſel having been purchaſed at Dunkirk: that the cargo was loaded on account of Mr. Woodhead: that Mr. Ramſden had formerly reſided at Boſton, and was the owner of the veſſel; he had ſince quitted America, and for 5 years had been backwards and forwards to France on mercantile affairs

After counſel were heard on both ſides, and the whole of the evidence diſcloſed to the court, the learned judge obſerved, that Mr. Ramſden had purchaſed the ſhip in queſtion in France; that his was itſelf a French mercantile tranſaction, and gave him the character of a French trader. After many other obſervations on the French mercantile dealings of Mr. Ramſden, Sir Charles Marriott pronounced the ſhip to be liable to confiſcation, the ſame as a good and lawful prize to the captors, and with reſpect to the cargo as it appeared that Mr. Woodhead was deceaſed, the learned judge ordered it to be reſtored to Meſſrs. Atkinſon, merchants, of Liverpool, of whom the goods had been purchaſed, ſince the property was not out of thoſe gentlemen, and they had a right to claim the ſame.

The Centinel attempts to ridicule the Bondſmen of Beache, as *Tradeſmen*. The "better ſort" deſpiſe *tradeſmen*, when they come forward in the cauſe of Republicaniſm, but are very ſubmiſſive to them when they are ſubſervient to their purpoſes.

May the American youth liſten to argument with polite attention, and in the true ſpirit of chriſtian benevolence, free from party violence learn the wiſdom of the following maxim: "*Vis expers concilii ruat ſua mole.*" The beſt cockade they can wear is an inviolable attachment to the letter and ſpirit of that conſtitution for which their forfathors fought to obtain at the price of their blood and treaſure. Let them abandon the aprobious epithets ſo prevalent in their converſations, with their fellow-citizens, upon political ſubjects and remember that arguments without proofs to maint in them, violent cenſures without dignity, truth and moderation, and facts without the truths of hiſtory to ſupport them, are no proofs of genius, talents, virtue or learning, and muſt never fail but to excite either the pity or contempt of age and experience.

MARINE REGISTER.

ARRIVED.	Days.
Ship Black River, Jarvis,	C. N. Mole 14
Schr. Fox, ——	C. N. Mole 14

Baltimore, July 13.

Arrived this day—Schr. Syren, Lilly, 20 days from Arquin. Left there, ſchr's Rachel, Folger, of Baltimore, to ſail in 10 days; Honeſt Friend, Gould, of do. in 15 days; brig Swift, of do. not long arrived.—Off Tilberoon fell in with the Engliſh fleet, and was boarded by the armed ſchr. Royalty, captain Coppinger, who impreſſed two of the Syren's men, both Americans, and had lawful protections. One of them was named Abraham Faxall, born in Dorcheſter county, Eaſtern ſhore, Maryland, and was never at ſea before, though a midſhipman on board the ſchooner, ſwore he was a ſeamen on board the Hermione frigate at the time of the maſſacre, and will in all probability fall an innocent victim to Britiſh perjury and raſcality.

NOTICE.

THE Subſcribers to the Time Piece, are deſired not to pay Mr. Kittletas, or Mr. Burk, or any other perſon to his or their order, any ſums of Money due for that paper beyond the 13th of June, and to take notice that no libelous or inflammitory matter ſhall be inſerted in that paper, in future agreeable to the principles of the proſpectus and times of the original articles legally intered into and ſtipulated by Doctor Smith, as will appear from the letter, and ſpirit of the contract, and that he will not be anſwerable for any debts contracted by Mr. Burke, on account of the Time Piece, from the date hereof. JAMES SMITH.

July 19, 1798.

HENRY HAYS,

LADIES' Shoe Maker, No. 78, Broad-way, has received, by the ſhip Mary, from London, in addition to his own Manufacture, a very elegant Aſſortment of LADIES' SHOES, conſiſting of black and colored kid Morocco, of every deſcription, all of the neweſt faſhion, which he will diſpoſe of on the moſt eaſonable terms. June 25. 1w

C. CHRISTIAN, Cabinet-Maker.

No. 61, New Street.

RESPECTFULLY informs the public, that he manufactures all ſorts of Portables or gentlemens travelling DESKS, on the neweſt and moſt approved methods, at the moſt reduced prices.

July, 11, 1798. 1f.

FOR SALE,

A HOUSE AND LOT,

No. 218, Water ſtreet, nearly oppoſite Crane wharf,

A Compleat well finiſhed three ſtory brick houſe; it is newly painted, in thorough repair, and a moſt excellent ſtand for mercantile buſineſs. For particulars apply to Mr. Abraham Skinner, No. 37, Pine ſtreet, the ſubſcriber on the premiſes, or at No. 4. Ferry ſtreet.

FRANCES ROORBACH,

Executrix to the eſtate of

ARTHUR HELME, deceaſed.

The ſubſcriber earneſtly ſolicites all perſons indebted to the eſtate of the ſaid Arthur Helme, to make immediate payment. and thoſe who have any demands to preſent their account for ſettlement.

July 4th, 1798. 2f.

NOTICE.

THE Copartnership of MATTHEW L. DAVIS, and CO, was dissolved, on the 13th inst. by mutual consent; all persons indebted to them, for subscriptions to the Time Piece, are requested to make payment to JOHN D. BURKE, who is duly authorised to collect the same; and those indebted for Advertisements or Handbills will please discharge their accounts at the office of the subscriber. If there are any demands against the late firm, it is requested he accounts will be immediately presented, and they will be paid on sight. MAT. L. DAVIS.

June 22.

WHEREAS WILLIAM S. SMITH, of the town of East Chester, in the county of West Chester, and state of New York, gentleman, being indebted to the subscriber, Nicoll Floyd, of the city of New York, merchant, by bond bearing date the sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, in the penal sum of one thousand pounds, conditioned for the payment of seven hundred and forty three pounds five shillings and ten pence, current money of the state of New York, on or before the twenty fifth day of November next ensuing the date thereof; the said William S. Smith, for the better securing the payment thereof, as aforesaid, to the said Nicoll Floyd, his executors administrators or assigns, according to the condition of the said bond or obligation, did, on the said sixth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, mortgage to the said Nicoll Floyd, his heirs and assigns, all that certain tract or four lots of ground, situate, lying and being in the sixth ward of the city of New York, adjoining each other, and containing, each of them, in breadth, in front and rear, twenty five feet, and in length one hundred feet; bounded south westerly in front by Barclay street, formerly Anthony street; north easterly, in the rear by ground now or late of Anthony Barclay; south easterly, by the ground of the said Anthony Barclay; north westerly, by ground now or late of Peter Bertine, the said Anthony Barclay, and the estate of Lewis Nichols (as the same are distinguished in a map annexed to a conveyance from Mary Barclay and Leonard Lespenard executors of Henry Barclay, deceased, to Egbert Benson and others, by Lots No. thirty four, thirty five thirty six, and thirty seven); Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, privileges, commodities and appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining; And whereas the condition of the said bond has not been performed. Notice is, therefore, hereby given, to all whom it may concern, that by virtue of a power contained in the said mortgage, and pursuant to the act in such case made and provided, the above described premises will be sold at the Tontine Coffee House, in the city of New York, on Monday, the ninth day of July next, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon of that day. Dated this fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight.

January 1 NICOLL FLOYD

REFINED SUGAR.

LOAF and Lump Sugar, for sale at the Sugar House, in Liberty (late Crown) street. Orders left at the Sugar House or with the subscriber, No. 170 Front Street, will be immediately attended to Where also may be had a few Bags of India Sugar

March 26. DAVID GELSTON.

A handsome Country House.

TO LET,

And Possession given on the 1st May.

THAT elegantly situated HOUSE on Long-Island, directly opposite Corlaer's Hook, containing 9 rooms and 6 fire places and a Garden if required. The situation is so agreeable that it requires no farther recommendation. For terms apply to

FRANCIS TITUS,
Near the premises.

Bushwick, April 16.

HATS.

PETER VANDERHOEF, Jun HATTER,
No. 49, Water-street, near Coenties Slip,

INFORMS his friends and customers that he manufactures, and has constantly in readiness for sale upon the lowest terms,

MEN & BOYS AMERICAN HATS.

OF every quality—*Also*, Ladies and childrens English imported Hats, to be sold by the single hat, dozen, or larger quantity as may best suit the purchaser—A generous allowance will be made to those who purchase by the quantity, to sell again.

April, 26. tf.

PAPER MAKERS.

Wanted,

TWO or three journeymen paper makers, who are compleatly masters of their business, and whose characters are good. Constant employment will be given, and their wages paid regular. They must agree for a stated term For further particulars, apply at the Office of the Time Piece.

Printing Ink Manufactory.

JOHN BOWEN,

ACQUAINTS the Printers in the United States, that he has established an Ink Manufactory in New-York, and will be able to furnish kegs of any size on reasonable terms for cash, equal to any imported, delivered on board of any vessel, or left at any other place in this city

J. Bowen is lately arrived from London, where he supplied some of the most respectable printing houses with ink of his manufacture, which was much approved of. Orders fulfilled with the utmost attention—to be paid for on delivery. Letters post paid, properly addressed to 340 Pearl street, duly attended to.

The printers of papers in the different commercial towns, are requested to give this anvertisement a place for the better encouragement of the undertaking.

SASHES FOR SALE.

MATTHEW HAWKINS, Sash-Maker and Glazier 0. 9 George Street, near the shipyards, has on hand and for sale, a large quantity of 24 light sashes 8 by 6, which he will sell painted and Glazed at 8d per. light 24 light ditto. 7 by 9, at 12d. sizes, has also on hand, a large stock of various other sizes such as 10 by 8, 11 by 9, 12 by 10, 14 by 10, 15 by 11, &c.—Which will be sold on low terms. Show-windows, Sliding glass, Cases for Stores, executed at the above place with accuracy and dispatch.

N. B. Orders as usual, for town or country, performed at the shortest notice.

March 26. t f.

As soon as a sufficient number of Subscribers can be procured, will be published

AN EPIC POEM,
IN TWELVE BOOKS,
ENTITLED
THE COLUMBIAD;
CONTAINING,

A HISTORY of America, from its earliest settlement to the acknowledgment of her Independence, with the principal battles, sieges, &c. which led to that event. The author has procured notes illustrating historic and geographic difficulties, from men of the first ability in the union; & means, if the profits will permit, to prefix an elegant Copper plate to each book. The whole work will be published in *Twelve Numbers*, each of which will be delivered for 4s.

It will be printed on the finest paper, illustrated by the most learned Annotations, and embellished by the best plates, which can be procured.

Subscriptions will be taken in at the Offices of the Minerva Argus, and Time-Piece, New-York; Aurora, and M. Carey's book-store, Philadelphia; and at the Chronicle and Mercury offices, Boston; and all the other Book-stores and Printing-offices on the continent.

October 9th. —tf. 1w

The Portrait of General Washington,

and other pieces of art, will continue to be shewn for 14 days longer, from 10 o'clock in the morning until 7 in the evening, and every pleasant evening until 10 o'clock.

IT is admitted universally, that Washington's Portrait is a perfect likeness, at this time, of this most celebrated patriot and virtuous citizen—As a portrait, it is said to be one of the most perfect and elegant paintings that this country or age has produced; it is as large as life; he is represented as President of the United States, giving his farewell address to Congress. It was painted in 1796, at the period of his retirement from public life—the celebrated G. Stuart, a native of America, was the painter.

13 Very elegant original paintings by the celebrated Mr. Winstanley, one of which is a large historical painting, 16 by 10 feet, of the nativity or birth of Christ; other Historical subjects, and some of the finest Landscapes ever executed in America.

Also, 10 paintings of portraits of celebrated personages in the French Revolution, most of which have been made sacrifices; of the 10, the Marquis De La Fayette and Tom Paine are yet in existence. Also, the Grand Musical clock.

Also a collection of very fine prints, some very elegant Porcelain Mantle-piece ornaments, a number of well preserved American Birds, some insects, and a pair of second hand 17 inch Senexes Globes. Many of the above articles are for sale; the 13 paintings last added to the collection are to be disposed of, the plan of which may be seen at the exhibition room.

This is doubtless the most magnificent collection of real fine paintings, every exhibited in this city; those who wish to gratify themselves must embrace the present opportunity, or they will miss the most pleasing and gratifying amusements that this city has ever been in possession of.

Admittance 2 Shillings.

Those who have already seen the Washington, will be requested to pay again for the additions, after which, payment will not be expected for the same visitors who introduce others.

N. B. The place of a amusement is the New Tontine City Hotel indway.

May 28. tf.

FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

A General assortment of seeds for sale by the subscriber, at Brooklyn, viz. beans, peas, cabbage, carrot, beet, parsnip, clive, celery, perfely, radish, turnip, &c. a dozen sorts.

JOHN HASTINGS,
Gardener, opposite to the methodist church, Brooklyn, where may likewise be had, fruit and forest trees.

Orders left at the office of the Time Piece will be attended to,

Sept. 15. tf

AN APPEAL
TO
IMPARTIAL POSTERITY.
By MADAME ROLAND,
Wife of the Minister in the Interior of France.

CONDITIONS.

These scarce and very valuable Historical Memoirs, which ran through two London editions in a few months, will be comprised in two volumes, octavo, of 400 pages each.

They will be printed on fine paper and a new type, and delivered to subscribers neatly bound and lettered, at one dollar and fifty cents per volume; one third of the subscription money to be paid on delivery of the first volume, the remainder when the work is completed.

To printers, booksellers and others, who acquire subscriptions, the usual allowance will be made.

☞ Subscriptions are taken at the Reading Room, No. 149. Water street, the Printing Office, No. 189. Pearl street, and the different Bookstores in this City.

As soon as a sufficient number of Subscribers are obtained, the Work will be put to press, and completed with the utmost dispatch. February 1. tf.

THE
INTERESTING TRAVELS
OF
JOHN LEDYARD,
WITH A SUMMARY OF HIS LIFE,

Are now in the hands of the Printer; and the following Proposals are offered to the Public for Printing the same by Subscription.

CONDITIONS.

I. It shall be printed on fine paper, with a new type ornamented with a full-length portrait of the Author, in the attitude of taking leave, on his departure for Africa.

II. It will be published in a large octavo form, handsomely bound and lettered—calculated to contain between four and five hundred pages, making an elegant library volume.

III. The price to subscribers will be two dollars a volume; one half the money to be paid at the time of subscribing and the remainder on delivery of the Work.

THE solicitude expressed by the public for this long expected Work; the character of the Author, and the celebrity of the travels, render unnecessary, to most Americans, encomiums which are ordinarily used in recommending books to public patronage To those who have not heard of Mr. John Ledyard and his travels the following character, extracted from a Work published by the London African Society, may not be amiss:

"FORCIBLY impressed by the objects which he saw, and naturally led to compare them with those which the other regions of the globe had presented to his view, he describes with the energy of an original observer, and exhibits in his narrative the varied effects of similarity and contrast.

—Having traversed the world by water, in his great attempt to do the same by land he had nearly penetrated to the Pacific ocean, when he was seized upon and banished from her territories by the empress of Russia.—

"On his arrival in England, Sir Joseph Banks told him, knowing his disposition, that he believed he could recommend him to an adventure almost as perilous as the one from which he had returned; and then communicated to him the wishes of the association for discovering the inland countries of Africa.

"Ledyard replied, that he had always determined to traverse the continent of Africa as soon as he had explored the interior of North America; and as Sir Joseph had offered him a letter of introduction, he came directly to the writer of these memoirs. I spread the map of Africa before him and tracing a line from Cairo to Sennar, and from thence westward, in the latitude and supposed direction of the Niger, I told him that was the route by which it was desired that Africa might, if possible, be explored. I asked him when he would set out—"*To-morrow morning*," was his answer: But before I had learned from the note the name and business of my visitor, I was struck with the manliness of his person, the breadth of his chest, the openness of his countenance, and the inquietude of his eye.

"His person was remarkably expressive of activity and strength; his manners, though unpolished, were neither uncivil or unpleasing: Little attentive to difference of rank, he seemed to consider all men as his equals, and as such he respected them: His genius, though irregular, was original and comprehensive;—ardent in his wishes yet calm in his deliberations; daring in his purposes, but guarded in his measures; impatient of controul, yet capable of strong endurance; adventrous beyond the conception of ordinary men yet wary and considerate, and attentive to all precautions; he appeared to be formed by nature for atchievements of hardihood and peril.

March 16. tf